

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 W  
-----027658 091102Z /12/13

R 090634Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5568  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 07176

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4, LINE 1)

E.O.11652; GDS  
TAGS; APER, PDIP, PGOV, GE, US (BOLEN, DAVID)  
SUBJECT; COURTESY CALL ON PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT  
SINDERMANN

REF: BERLIN 7140

1. SUMMARY: I PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE GDR PARLIAMENT (VOLKSKAMMER)  
SINDERMANN. SINDERMANN STRESSED NEED FOR IMPROVED  
TRADE AND HIS DESIRE FOR CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO  
BERLIN. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HELP GIVEN BY  
DAVID ROCKEFLLER IN ARRANGING DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT IN  
UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE GDR PARLIAMENT  
(VOLKSKAMMER) HORST SINDERMANN ON SEPTEMBER 7. I SAID  
THAT I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH MANY OF THE EXHIBITS  
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I HAD SEEN AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR AND FELT THAT THE FAIR  
REFLECTED THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE GDR. SINDERMANN  
SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS WAS NOT YET REFLECTED  
IN THE COUNTRY'S TRADE WITH THE US, COMPLAINING THAT  
THE BALANCE WAS NEGATIVE FOR THE GDR. HE SAID THAT  
SIX YEARS BEFORE THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING WITH  
AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE SINCE

THEN AND THAT THE GDR HAD "HONORED ITS PLEDGES."  
HE OBSERVED THAT DOW CHEMICAL HAD HAD GOOD CONTACTS  
WITH THE GDR CHEMICAL FIRMS FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

3. SINDERMANN REFERRED TO THE VISIT OF DAVID ROCKEFELLER  
TO THE GDR SAYING ROCKEFELLER HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL  
IN ARRANGING FOR THE EXHIBIT OF THE DRESDEN ART  
COLLECTION IN THE US. SINDERMANN SAID THAT THE FIRST  
DRESDEN EXHIBIT WOULD CONSIST OF CLASSIC PAINTINGS  
BUT THAT ROCKEFELLER HAD EXPRESSED AN  
INTEREST IN AN EXHIBITION OF THE GERMAN IMPRESSIONIST  
PAINTINGS FROM DRESDEN AS WELL. PERHAPS THIS COULD BE  
ARRANGED FOR THE SECOND EXHIBITION. SINDERMANN ASKED  
FOR MY HELP IN WORKING OUT THE ARRANGEMENTS AND OBSERVED  
THAT A GREAT DEAL COULD BE DONE IN DEVELOPING CULTURAL  
RELATIONS. REFERRING TO ROCKEFELLER'S ROLE, SINDERMANN  
STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL AND HUMAN CONTACTS  
IN DEVELOPING GOOD RELATIONS AND URGED THAT WE SENT  
MORE PEOPLE FROM INDUSTRY WHO COULD CUT THROUGH RED TAPE  
IN RESOLVING PROBLEMS.

4. I TOLD SINDERMANN THAT I HAD AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND FROM  
THESE DISCUSSIONS I WAS AWARE THAT MUCH PROGRESS HAD  
BEEN MADE SINCE RELATIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. I  
EXPRESSED MY APPRECIATION FOR SINDERMANN'S OWN CONTRIBUTION  
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IN HIS FORMER ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS AND TOLD HIM CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR FIRMS HAVE A  
SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND FOREIGN TRADE. I WOULD ENCOURAGE  
US FIRMS TO INCREASE THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE GDR.

5. I EXPRESSED MY APPRECIATION FOR THE EXHIBITION OF  
THE DRESDEN ART COLLECTION, SAYING THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT  
FOR US TO APPRECIATE ONE ANOTHER'S CULTURAL HERITAGE.  
BEFORE I LEFT WASHINGTON I HAD TALKED WITH  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND I WAS SURE THAT  
CULTURAL CONTACTS HELPED PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONS AS THEY  
HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE ATTITUDES IN CONGRESS AND  
AMONG THE PUBLIC.

6. SINDERMANN SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT AMERICAN  
CONGRESSMAN LIKED TO TRAVEL AND HE NOTED THAT LAST  
YEAR A US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, HEADED BY SENATOR  
HUMPHREY, HAD BEEN IN WEST BERLIN. SINDERMANN SAID  
THEY HAD VISITED THE GDR AND HAD EVEN COME TO THE  
PARLIAMENT BUILDING (WHERE SINDERMANN'S OFFICES ARE  
LOCATED) BUT WERE NOT IN BERLIN OFFICIALLY. HE ASKED  
WHEN A GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN MIGHT COME AGAIN AND  
STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THEM. HE

THOUGHT A VISIT WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT.  
SINDERMANN SAID THAT WHEN THERE HAD BEEN CONTACTS  
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THEY HAD BEEN FRIENDLY AND  
HE SAID THE GDR WOULD LIKE US REPRESENTATIVES  
TO COME TO SEE WHAT LIFE IS LIKE HERE. HE WOULD BE  
PLEASED TO WELCOME THEM AND TO SHOW THEM THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF THE GDR, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

7. I THANKED SINDERMANN FOR HIS THOUGHTS REGARDING  
CONGRESSIONAL VISITS, AGREEING THAT SUCH VISITS COULD  
BE HELPFUL IN DEVELOPING GOOD RELATIONS. I REMINDED  
HIM THAT CONGRESS IS AN INDEPENDENT BODY THAT DOES  
WHAT IT LIKES BUT THAT I WOULD CONVEY TO CONGRESS  
HIS DESIRE TO RECEIVE A DELEGATION. I TOLD HIM THAT

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 CU-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 W  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 07176

AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME I WOULD INFORM HIM IF THERE WAS  
ANY INTEREST IN SUCH A VISIT.

8. THE REMAINDER OF THE DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED  
PRINCIPALLY TO A DISCUSSION OF ORGANIZED SPORTS IN  
THE GDR. SINDERMANN DESCRIBED THE ORGANIZATION, THE  
RECRUITMENT POLICIES AND THE USES OF RETIRED ATHLETES  
IN THE DESIGN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES  
OBJECTIONS, I BELIEVE CONGRESS SHOULD BE INFORMED OF  
GDR INTEREST IN RECEIVING CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS.  
I DO NOT AT THIS STAGE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ACTIVELY

ENCOURAGE SUCH A VISIT ALTHOUGH AT SOME POINT A  
MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT BE  
USEFUL. IN THIS CONNECTION IT MAY BE RECALLED THAT  
ONE POSSIBLE FACTOR WHICH MAY HAVE LED TO SINDERMANN'S  
DEMOTION FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
TO HIS PRESENT POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE VOLKSKAMMER  
WAS HIS SUPPOSED ADVOCACY OF LESS DEPENDENCE ON  
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THE USSR. BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** APER, PDIP, PGOV, GC, US, (SINDERMAN, HORST), (BOLEN, DAVID)  
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**Type:** TE  
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